

Appl No. 10/656,442

Amdt. dated

Reply to the Office action of January 3, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An automatic shutoff overflow controller for use in shutting off a powered liquid processing device when an undesirably high level of liquid is sensed in a liquid containment for liquid draining from the device, the controller comprising a sensor circuit engaged between the device and a source of power therefor and including conductive sensor probes placed at a desired level within the liquid containment such that, when the probes become immersed in liquid, an audible warning is produced and flow of power from the source to the device is interrupted, the sensor probes are being mounted, in a housing, the sensor housing being engaged to an outlet end of an outlet hose from the device and the housing including an open end into which the probes extend, the open end of the sensor housing being adjacent to and extended beyond the outlet opening of the outlet hose.

Claim 2 (original): The controller of Claim 1 wherein the circuit includes a connector engaged to a source of power.

Claim 3 (original): The controller of Claim 2 wherein the circuit further includes an atria to which the device is

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electrically engaged.

Claim 4 (original): The controller of Claim 3 wherein a normally open relay is positioned between the connector and the atria.

Claim 5 (original): The controller of Claim 4 wherein a comparator is functionally engaged to the relay in a manner to cause closing of contacts of the relay when voltage across the probes exceeds a reference voltage to effectively disconnect the device from the source of power.

Claim 6 (original): The controller of Claim 5 wherein the comparator also powers on an audio signal generator upon closing the relay contacts.

Claim 7 (original): The controller of Claim 6 wherein the circuit includes a timer for causing the audio signal generator to cycle on and off when the relay contacts are closed.

Claim 8 (original): The controller of Claim 7 wherein the circuit includes a visual indicator of the status thereof which is normally green and changes to red when the relay contacts are closed.

Claim 9 (original): The controller of Claim 8 wherein the circuit is reset when sufficient liquid is removed from the containment therefor to decrease the liquid to a level below the probes.

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Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): An automatic shutoff overflow controller for use in shutting off a powered liquid processing device when an undesirably high level of liquid is sensed in a liquid containment for liquid draining from the device, the controller comprising a sensor circuit engaged between the device and a source of power therefor and including conductive sensor probes placed at a desired level within the liquid containment such that, when the probes become immersed in liquid, an audible warning is produced and flow of power from the source to the device is interrupted, the sensor.